

MADERA WATER SUPPLY  
ENHANCEMENT ACT

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 30, 2007*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Madera Water Supply Enhancement Act, which authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in the design and construction of the Madera Water Supply and Enhancement Project. This important water bank project will help improve water supply in California's San Joaquin Valley.

The Bureau has completed its final appraisal study and has concluded that the Madera water bank will increase water supply, provide groundwater resource protection, mitigate the water supply impacts of the San Joaquin River restoration project, contribute to habitat conservation and have other positive impacts on the severe water supply and reliability problem in the area.

The Project will be located on the over 13,000-acre Madera Ranch, where the soils on and underneath the land are ideal for percolating water from the surface to the aquifer for storage. The land is also a valuable habitat for numerous species and contains large sections of the region's native grasslands.

In the 109th Congress, the Resources Committee held hearings on this legislation and the House unanimously passed H.R. 3897, the predecessor legislation. There are two changes in this legislation from the bill that passed in the last Congress. First, we are immediately authorizing construction of the Project without further study. Second, the legislation caps the total cost of the Project, limiting the Federal government's contribution to 25 percent of total cost, which cannot exceed \$90 million. We have made these changes for the following reasons.

First, the water supply and reliability problems in the area are, as the Bureau has acknowledged, severe. The Bureau's Friant Division is falling almost 1 million acre-feet of water per year short in meeting its contractual commitments, and groundwater pumping is exceeding groundwater recharge by approximately 100,000 acre-feet per year, causing severe groundwater level declines. The proposed San Joaquin River restoration could reduce Madera's water allocation, already insufficient, by an additional 10–20 percent or more. The water bank, by storing excess water in wet years, will provide a much needed source of water in dry years, facilitate the restoration of groundwater levels over time and mitigate the adverse impact on water supply as a result of the San Joaquin River restoration project.

The Madera Irrigation District has already invested over \$40 million to acquire the land and plan this Project. The region's economic well-being depends on having a secure, sufficient and reliable water supply. We simply cannot continue to delay making the Madera water bank a reality.

Second, the Madera water bank represents a very unique situation. As the Bureau stated in the Final Appraisal Report, "[t]he Madera Ranch Groundwater Bank is a project that has been investigated for approximately 10 years for its potential to improve water supply reliability and reduce groundwater overdraft con-

ditions." Over a decade ago, the Bureau of Reclamation tried to buy the Madera Ranch and build its own water bank. As part of this effort, the Bureau conducted extensive studies regarding the feasibility of this Project and concluded that the Project was feasible. After the Bureau decided not to go forward with the Project because of local opposition, private entities conducted further studies with the same positive results. Most recently, the Madera Irrigation District has undertaken additional costs studies conducted by the same engineering firm that worked for the Bureau, further technical studies regarding the Project's feasibility and a completed and certified environmental impact study.

To date, over \$8 million has been spent on studies related to the Project, not counting the Bureau's own substantial efforts to study the feasibility of a water bank at the site. All of this work, including four successful pilot tests, has verified that the Project is not only feasible, but with a certified Environmental Impact Report in place, ready to move immediately to the construction phase, most especially in light of the area's water supply problems.

The legislation lists no fewer than 18 studies and reports regarding this Project that have been undertaken over the past 10 years, many of which done by the Bureau or with the Bureau's knowledge and involvement. Clearly, no further study is required given the urgent need and unique history of the Project.

Third, we recognize that when committing to support a project, the Federal government requires assurances regarding the extent of its financial commitment. The Madera Irrigation District has already evidenced its commitment to the Project by investing to date over \$40 million. The legislation establishes a ceiling of \$90 million for the total cost of the Project. With the prevailing 25 percent federal cost share for such projects, the Federal government's financial commitment is limited to \$22.5 million or 25 percent of total cost, whichever is less.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to expand water supply opportunities in California's San Joaquin Valley.

THE AGRICULTURE BUSINESS  
SECURITY TAX CREDIT ACT

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 30, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues of legislation I have introduced today to strengthen security at facilities where agricultural chemicals and fertilizers are manufactured, transported and stored.

The legislation that I have proposed, The Agricultural Business Security Tax Credit Act, extends tax initiatives to help defray the high costs agricultural businesses now face enhancing on-site security. I have introduced similar legislation in the past two Congresses.

Farm-use chemical production is unique in its use, distribution and security needs. Pesticides and fertilizers, while important to farmers and agricultural businesses, can also be used as agents for manufacturing illegal drugs such as methamphetamine. Some chemicals can even be used to develop explosive de-

vices, making these sites a potential target for foreign and domestic terrorists.

I believe the incentives offered in The Agricultural Business Security Tax Credit Act will promote improved security at agricultural facilities that handle chemicals and fertilizers, helping them take the necessary steps to better protect U.S. agriculture and the American public from potential threats and other illegal activity.

I urge my colleagues to consider supporting this bill.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ESTES  
McDONIEL

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 30, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of my friend Estes McDoniel, a former Mayor of Henderson, Nevada and a Basic High School Principal.

Estes earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the University of Arizona. After college, Mr. McDoniel moved to Henderson where he began his long and distinguished career in the Clark County School District as a teacher at Basic High School. Estes' teaching career was interrupted when he enlisted in the Navy and served in the Pacific theater off the coast of Okinawa, Japan during World War II.

Following his service, Estes returned to Basic High School where he continued his exemplary teaching service. Estes was a science teacher, vocational carpentry and industrial studies educator, head coach of the football, basketball, and track teams, Athletic Director, Assistant Principal, and Principal. Estes' dedication to the community expanded beyond the walls of the classroom where in 1969 he was elected Mayor of Henderson, Nevada. In 1988, Estes' great service to the Clark County community was recognized when an elementary school was named in his honor.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and memory of my friend Estes McDoniel. His dedication to the Clark County community and the City of Henderson was commendable and should serve as an example to us all.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON  
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR  
2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2007*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2008. At a time when we need to be fiscally responsible, the Democrats unveiled a budget plan that would increase taxes and increase spending.

Cutting taxes, not increasing taxes, is the solution to spurring economic growth. Our economic recovery after the \$2 trillion of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 was directly related to these creative tax cuts. We